The details of profit/loss during 1993-94 will be available only after the accounts are finalised and audited.

The details of production of coal in these two companies during the last three years were as under :—

(In million tonnes)

	ECL	BCCL
1991-92 .	24.52	27.00
1992-93 .	24.06	28.06
1993-94 (P)	22.60	29.03

(b) The manpower position of BCCL and ECL as on 31-12-1993 was as under :—

BCCL	1,57,720
ECL	1,72.624

(c) The underground and opencast Output per Manshift (OMS) in BCCL and ECL during 1993-94 (April-December, 1993) were as under :—

(Rs. per tonne)

	Underground OMS	Opencast OMS	Overall
BCCL .	0.46	2.00	0.81
ECL .	0.42	1.36	0.54

(d) The break up of OMS between opencast and underground mines has already been furnished above.

Some of the major steps taken to increase productivity and to reduce cost of production of coal include the following:

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

Performance of coal washeries

4262. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the coal washeries are discharging good amount of fine particles of coking coal to the river bed;

(b) whether Government are also aware that fine coal particles can be recovered by adopting new technologies;

(c) whether Government have adopted new technologies in the coal washeries;

(d) if so, where the technologies have been adopted;

(e) whether it is also a fact that introduction of floatation cell in the washing circuit can recover valuable coking coal particles; and

(f) if so, how many washeries have introduced floatation cell and what are their performances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Most of the washeries are designed to operate in close circuit with in-built provision of reclaiming coal fines. Sometimes, due to operational problems such as power failure, break-down etc. some quantity of fine coal escapes alongwith washery discharge. There is a provision in each washery to capture the over flow in slurry ponds where coal fines are settled and reclaimed. During rainy season the settlement of coal fines in slurry ponds is less effective.

(c) to (e) Froth floatation technology has been introduced in the coal washeries to recover and beneficiate fine coal particles.

(f) Floatation cells have been introduced in 10 public sector washeries and the performance of these are by and large satisfactory except for operational problems mentioned at (b).